



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
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June 18, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer  
  
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health

## REPORT BACK ON PREVENTING A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE REDUCTION FOR DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS (ITEM NO. 55, AGENDA OF MAY 20, 2014)

On May 20, 2014, a Motion presented by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to report back every two weeks regarding the identification of appropriate alternative sites for the provision of DMH CalWORKs services, Wellness Clinical Team services, and Prevention and Early Intervention programs that were relocated from the Little Tokyo Lofts (LTL) site, so that no service delivery delays or reductions will occur for the County residents originally targeted for services. Every two weeks written updates will be provided to the Board until alternative sites are identified and opened for services.

Since our last report dated June 4, 2014, CEO Real Estate Division (CEO-RED) located office space for the CalWORKs services within the Leavey Community Health Center, currently leased by the County, which is located at 522 San Pedro Street. However, due to the lack of clinical space and the impact on client services, we continue to search for alternative space that will more adequately meet the program's needs.

Plans continue to move forward to locate the Wellness Teams within the temporary modular space located at 640 and 646 South Maple Avenue. Staff from the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Water and Power has worked diligently on the permitting process and power supply to the site to ensure everything will be in

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place for the movement of staff from the Downtown Mental Health Clinic (DMHC) targeted by mid-July. Escrow closed on the purchase of the DMHC on May 30, 2014. DPW is proceeding with the Board Letter for consideration of the project to renovate the building.

In our report dated June 4, 2014, CEO-RED had not yet identified space for the Preventive and Early Intervention (PEI) program. Over the past two weeks we have some possibilities that we continue to pursue that could result in a possible lease for this program, as well as an alternative for the CalWORKs program. If CEO-RED is successful in negotiating lease terms for the space, we may need expedited approval by the Board to enter into leases and approval of funding for the necessary tenant improvements (TI's). The CEO will address the source of funding for the TI's once the lease terms are agreed upon. We will provide additional details in our next report on July 2, 2014.

The following is an update on sites reviewed by CEO-RED over the past two weeks:

- 1813 East Washington Boulevard – Staff has toured the site, however, the ownership has continued to be non-responsive regarding our desire to discuss a possible lease for DMH services. We will continue to reach out to them.
- 543 South Crocker Street – The Volunteers of America (VOA) facility was toured with DMH staff. The site continues to present challenges in separating the existing and ongoing homeless veterans and women's bed facilities from clients to be served in the PEI program. Further evaluation of the suitability of the site and discussions with VOA is required.
- 621 South Maple Avenue and 224 East 6th Street – [Former Greyhound/Rapid Transit District (RTD) station covering the entire City block] – Discussions are ongoing with the property ownership for the possibility of a temporary two-year lease until completion of the renovation of the DMHC. The site is being considered for both the PEI and CalWORKs programs as available space allows.
- 4th Place – This property is located across the street from the Department Public Social Services facility on 4th and Hewitt. The lease signage has been removed.
- 415 East 6th Street - Constructive discussions continue with the ownership as a possible long-term DMH DMCH satellite office once the owner completes major renovations of the building. DMH is scheduled to tour the premises on June 17, 2014.

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With regard to status of the LTL site, the CEO continues contact with the LTL facility management and has shared a draft letter prepared by the CEO to all residents informing them of the Board's action to utilize the leased space on the ground floor of the building for DMH administrative staff use only. CEO and DMH are scheduling a site visit to LTL with Sheriff staff to review safety concerns and possible solutions, prior to a meeting with residents. Scheduling of a meeting with residents is pending, but targeted for July or August 2014.

The CEO and DMH continue to follow every lead possible to find alternative space for client services. We are hopeful that we can negotiate lease terms to provide the optimum level of services required for all DMH clients.

If you have questions, your staff may contact Rita Robinson at (213) 893-2477, or email [rrobinson@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:rrobinson@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:MJS  
RLR:RK:os

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel